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**NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES  
RURAL DISTRICT**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

**1959**



NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

A N N U A L   R E P O R T  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
&  
SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1959

To the Chairman and Members of Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report for the year 1959, regarding the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The estimated population has now reached the lowest figure on record at 4,190, which is 30 below the estimate for the preceding year; the birth rate dropped from 13.98 to 12.17 per 1,000 of the population or numerically from 59 to 51 babies. The national birth rate was 16.50.

The natural increase, (i.e. the excess of births over deaths), was 9, compared with 21 in 1958, although this figure appears to fluctuate considerably, e.g. in 1955, deaths exceeded births by 6. In fact, with such relatively small numbers it is better to take averages over long periods in assessing trends and conditions. Thus the following figures show the average natural increases over 10 year periods:-

Period	Total Births	Total Deaths	Average Yearly Increase
1930 - 1939	625	585	4
1940 - 1949	714	639	7
1950 - 1959	573	532	4

It would appear that the only way to stop this steady decline in the population is to encourage immigration, and this could be accomplished by a more active development of the holiday industry, for the district is included in an area of outstanding natural beauty. In addition, a more sympathetic approach from the Planning Authority would be most helpful.

For the second successive year, there was a Nil return for stillbirths, but the infant mortality increased from 1 to 2 infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 39.21 per 1,000 total live births, which was again above the national rate of 20.70. There has been no maternal death since 1950.

The number of deaths increased by 4, giving a crude death rate of 10.02 per 1,000 of the population, which was below the rate of 11.60 for England and Wales. Multiplied by the comparability factor, the death rate for the district was 8.80.

Deaths from diseases of the heart and circulatory system actually fell from 23 to 19, giving a percentage of 45% of all deaths. The proportion of deaths from coronary heart disease also fell from 30% to 21% of this group, or 9% of all deaths. It is interesting to note from the Report of the Ministry of Health, 1958, that "the number of deaths assigned to coronary disease has increased by nearly a quarter in the past five years. It is probable that much of this increase is still due to improved diagnosis of cause of death and ageing of the population, but nevertheless a real increase would appear to be taking place."

Cancer deaths increased from 6 to 8 but the interesting point is the drop in male cancer deaths from 5 to 1, and the rise in female cancer deaths from 1 to 7, 4 of these cancers being sited in the breast and uterus. There was no death from lung cancer. Cancer deaths accounted for 19% of all deaths.



For the second year, few infectious diseases' notifications were received and, of these, there was nothing of serious import.

On the other hand, 3 respiratory tuberculosis notifications were received compared with only one during 1958. Again, this time for the fourth successive year, no death from tuberculosis was recorded.

The response to the campaign for vaccination against poliomyelitis continues at a very favourable level, and compares well with the rest of the County. The total number in age groups is shown in the table below:

1 - 15 Age Group

12,751 children received two injections (94%) out of an estimated population of 13,573.

15 - 25 Age Group

3,831 persons received two injections (54%) out of an estimated population of 7,040.

<u>Expectant Mothers</u>	575
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<u>Doctors and Families</u>	41
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<u>Ambulance Staff and Families</u>	17
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<u>Hospital Staff</u>	57
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A total of 17,272 received two injections since the advent of the scheme to 31st December, 1959.

Of these, 12,940 received their third injection - approximately 75%

Tables are given on page 6 for immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus and smallpox vaccinations. The immunity index also shown on this page is lower than the index for the rest of North Northumberland, and I would like to see this index raised nearer 75%. The immunity index is the number of children immunised, (primary or booster), during the last five years, expressed as a percentage of the total estimated mid-year child population. It should also be noted that the total number of children, aged 14 years and under, who received primary immunisation, was 47 compared with 23 receiving primary vaccinations.

Good progress was made during the year in improving sanitary conditions at Cornhill where the sewerage scheme was completed and after much delay, a start was made with the Holy Island scheme. This latter scheme, when completed, will be greatly appreciated by the Islanders and will help to raise the standard of the houses and shops on the Island which have lacked for so long, a water carriage system.

As the Public Health Inspector reports, the next most urgent problem in the district is the need for sewerage at East Ord.

This will be my last report to you and I should like to conclude by re-affirming my appreciation of the kindness I have received from the Chairman and members of the Committee, and of the interest taken in the work of my Department. I should also like to record my very sincere thanks to the Clerk, Surveyor/Public Health Inspector and members of the Council Staff for the very willing co-operation and help they have always extended to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient servant,



*[Signature]*  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district is 47,011 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 1414 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 6.

The rateable value was £30,844 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £115.

The estimated mid-year population was 4,190 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	28	22	50
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Totals	<u>28</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>51</u>
Birth rate per 1,000 of the population			12.17
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			1.96
<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil
Total live and still births			51
<u>Infant Deaths (deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	-	2	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			39.21
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			40.00
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			19.61
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			19.61
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>			
Stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			19.61
<u>Maternal Mortality</u>			
Number of deaths			Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	19	23	42
Death rate per 1,000 of the population			10.02
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis			Nil
Deaths from Other Puerperal Causes			Nil
Deaths from Cancer			8

Table 1CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	1	1
"    "    Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-
"    "    Breast	-	2	2
"    "    Uterus	-	2	2
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	1	2	3
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	5	2	7
Coronary Disease, Angina	2	2	4
Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease	-	4	4
Other Circulatory Disease	4	-	4
Influenza	-	1	1
Pneumonia	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	2	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	3	4
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1
All Other Accidents	1	-	1
Suicide	-	-	-
Homicide and Operations of War	-	-	-
Totals	<u>19</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>42</u>



Table 2ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Sex	Cause of Death	Age
<u>Male</u>	Multiple bodily injuries sustained by deceased while he was crossing the railway where he was struck by a passing train.	86
<u>Female</u>	Severe multiple injuries to the body and limbs caused by the motor lorry in which the deceased was a passenger crashing into the rear of a heavy motor vehicle with an overhang load travelling in the same direction.	38

Table 3INFANT MORTALITY

Cause of Death	Age	Place of Death
Gastro intestinal haemorrhage. Haemorrhagic disease of the newborn.	2 days	Leazes Babies Hospital, Newcastle.
Myocardial failure. Broncho-pneumonia. Influenza.	4 months	Died at home.

Table 4TUBERCULOSIS

Age Group	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
30 - 39	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
50 - 59	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 5INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	-
Whooping Cough	-
Diphtheria	-
Measles	2
Pneumonia	1
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	-
Encephalitis	-

Table 6

IMMUNISATION

	Primary Immunisation								Secondary (Reinforcing) Injections							
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	TOTAL	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5/9	10/14	TOTAL
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	9	-	12
Diphtheria & Whooping Cough	11	18	2	1	-	-	-	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria, Whooping Cough & Tetanus	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	14	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	3
TOTALS	20	23	2	1	-	1	-	47	-	-	-	-	5	10	-	15

IMMUNITY INDEX - NORTH NO. 1

District	1-4 Age Group	Under 1 Age Group
Berwick M.B.	59.9	19.6
Belford R.D.	71.6	31.25
Glendale R.D.	79.3	38.2
Norham & Islandshires R.D.	54.3	15.3

Average per cent for North No. 1 .. .. . 65.5

Table 7

SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS

District	Number Vaccinated during Period						Number Re-Vaccinated					
	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or Over	Total	Under 1	1	2-4	5-14	15 or Over	Total
Berwick M.B.	64	27	13	11	7	122	-	-	13	29	46	88
Belford R.D.	55	26	7	2	3	93	-	-	-	3	7	10
Glendale R.D.	65	23	-	1	-	89	-	1	1	1	9	12
Norham & Islandshires	14	9	-	-	3	26	-	-	-	-	3	3
TOTALS	198	85	20	14	13	330	-	1	14	33	65	113



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
1959

To the Chairman and Members of the Norham & Islandshires Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1959.

The District Council's water supply position has not materially changed during the year. A very dry summer was experienced and consequently water consumption rose steeply. Some water shortage occurred, and it was necessary to arrange for the leading of water to the Loanend and Harperidge areas. The private water undertaking for the Haggerston Castle area temporarily ceased owing to the drought, and importation of water was resorted to, over a period, until the dry spell ended.

To offset this trouble in the future, the District Council has had a scheme prepared for supplying water to Cornhill and Harperidge areas from Glendale Rural District - a scheme which is expected to be completed in 1960. Furthermore, the District Council is having schemes prepared for the watering of Longridge/Loanend area from an augmented East Ord Supply, and the Haggerston area from the Fenwick Water Supply. The remaining water supplies throughout the District Council's area fully maintained production despite the dry weather and no shortages were noted.

Of the two new sewerage schemes in hand last year, the one serving Cornhill Village was completed, ~~unfortunately, with many faults, due in part to poor workmanship, which are being slowly rectified, after numerous visits and consultations by Officials and the Contractors' representatives.~~ *MS.*

The much needed Holy Island sewerage scheme was commenced during the year.

Again, the sewerage systems of East Ord, Horncliffe and Norham Villages are most unsatisfactory and during the year, the stream at East Ord, accepting the discharge of the village 9" sewer, with no treatment whatsoever, was in such a state as to constitute a Public Health nuisance and because of this, of the three villages mentioned, East Ord could justifiably claim priority for the installation of a new sewerage scheme in the very near future.

#### PLANS

There were 53 plans deposited during the year together with the necessary applications under the Town & Country Planning Act and Local Byelaws.

Of these applications, 49 were approved and 4 refused.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Survey of premises and test baiting revealed no major infestations. All sewers test baited have shown "no takes", thereby revealing non-infestation. The part-time employment of the District Council vehicle driver in this sphere was very successful during the year as shown from the limited infestations, and the fact that the survey of the whole of the area, usually the most extensive and non-remunerative part of the work, was carried out by the Driver in conjunction with the refuse collection visits. Furthermore, inspection of all farms in the District Council Area revealed regular preventive measures were taken against infestation, in practically all cases.

The three District Council operated refuse disposal tips revealed some infestation during the year, but were speedily and efficiently cleared by the Operator.

WATER SUPPLIESWater Samples for Analysis

	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Chemical	2	2	-
Bacteriological	14	9	5

HOUSING

During the year, six new houses were built, four by the District Council, (2 at East Ord; 2 at Cornhill), and two privately, the latter receiving State Assistance under Section 46. Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

CARAVANS

There are two modern Caravan Parks in the area annually licensed by the Local Authority.

- (a) Haggerston Park
- (b) Ord House

Both these sites possess wholesome and piped water, are provided with all the necessary water carriage sanitary facilities and are adequately sewered. They are, too, pleasant, popular and efficiently controlled at a sustained high standard.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Number of Factories on Register at 31st December, 1959	....	20
Number of Mechanical Factories	.....	19
Number of Non-Mechanical Factories	.....	1
Inspections carried out	.....	20
Contraventions found	.....	-
Informal Notices Served	.....	-

INSPECTION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

Though Meat Inspection accounts for a larger proportion of the available time allocated for the administration of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, visits to all food shops, Hotels and Catering establishments are entailed. To the private licensed Slaughterhouse at Norham, eighty-two visits were made during the year, which entailed inspection of 73% of the carcasses of the animals slaughtered.

It is significant to note that the number of inspections of such premises will be increased as and when sewerage schemes are completed, viz. Holy Island, in the ensuing year.

PRIVATE LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE - NORHAM

Animals slaughtered	Steers	126
	Heifers	Nil
	Sheep & Lambs	119
	Pigs	10

The number of premises registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955, was:-

(a)	For the sale of Ice-Cream	.. .. .	10	
(b)	For the preparation or manufacture of Sausages or			<u>TOTAL 12</u>
	Potted, Pickled, Pressed or Preserved Foods..	.. ..	2	
	Number of inspections to Registered Premises..	.. ..	25	



MEAT & OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Bacon ..... 14 lbs.  
 Ham ..... 50 lbs.  
 Canned Goods ..... 89 tins

REFUSE COLLECTION

Since the inception of this Scheme throughout the District Council area, a fortnightly collection has been maintained. Criticism of only one collection per 14 days met with slightly during the past years, has now hardened. Comparison is made with other Local Authorities, but to augment the Service to a weekly basis would entail the cost of a new vehicle and the employment of two extra men. However, such is a matter worth some consideration for the ensuing year.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - HOUSING (Financial Provisions) ACT, 1958

	<u>Number of Separate Houses</u>
Applications submitted to Local Authority during year	25
Applications rejected .....	3
Applications approved .....	22
Approximate average grant per house .....	£248. 14. Od.
Total number of houses approved for grant in District Council's area since inception of Scheme .....	192

STANDARD GRANTS - HOUSE PURCHASE & HOUSING ACT, 1959

Number of separate houses for which grants were made during the year .....	Nil
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PUBLIC CONVENIENCE - HOLY ISLAND

This convenience opened in 1956, has once again proved to be extremely beneficial to Holy Island and the visitors during the summer. The attendant has not spared himself in maintaining his established high standard of cleanliness of the Convenience.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEARPublic Health Act, 1936

Part 2 - Sanitation and Buildings .....	39
Part 3 - Nuisances .....	5
Part 4 - Water Supplies .....	50
Part 5 - Notifiable Diseases .....	-

Housing Act, 1936

Part 2 - Inspection of Insanitary Houses .....	70
--	----

Housing Act, 1949 - 1958

Improvement Grants - Visits in connection .....	60
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Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

Visits in connection with infestation and administration .....	25
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Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928

Visits in connection with Petrol Storage .....	30
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OTHER VISITS AND INSPECTIONS

1.	Council House Repairs .....	150
2.	Town & Country Planning Act .....	12
3.	Building Byelaws .....	20
4.	Meat and Food Inspection.	
	Food and Drugs Act, 1955 .....	90
5.	Factories Act, 1937 .....	20
6.	Water Supplies .....	140
Total visits, Inspections etc. ....		<u>711</u>

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Lady & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A.N. SENIOR

SURVEYOR AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

52 Ravensdowne,  
BERWICK UPON TWEED.

ADDENDUM to ANNUAL REPORTHousing Statistics, 1959

<u>New Houses completed during the Year</u>	<u>With State Assistance</u>	<u>Unaided</u>	<u>Total</u>
(a) By Local Authority	4	-	4
(b) By any other Housing Authority	-	-	-
(c) By private persons	2	-	2
	6	-	6

Total No. of inhabited Houses in the District 1414

Total No. of Houses owned by Local Authority 266

Action with Regard to Unfit Houses

	<u>No. of Houses</u>
(a) Houses demolished in Clearance Areas	7
(b) Demolition Orders revoked after reconstruction	1
(c) Houses in Clearance Areas still in use at end of year for temporary accommodation	2



A.N. SENIOR

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



